DC

11

HARLEY QUINN

PHILLIPS
ROSSMO
PLASCENCIA

AGES 13+
DCCOMICS.COM

BATMAN DETECTIVE COMICS #1050

MAIN COVER BY **IRVIN RODRIGUEZ**

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JANUARY

LANDMARK OVERSIZE ISSUE!

SHADOWS OF THE BAT reaches an explosive crescendo...
...and a new era of the World's Finest begins!

FOUR-PART CONNECTING
VARIANT COVER BY **JORGE MOLINA**

VARIANT COVER BY **JASON FABOK**

VARIANT COVER BY **JORGE FORNÉS**

VARIANT COVER BY **LEE BERMEJO**

WRITTEN BY **MARIKO TAMAKI** • **MATTHEW ROSENBERG**

ART BY **IVAN REIS** • **FERNANDO BLANCO**

With a special prelude to
Batman/Superman: World's Finest
by Mark Waid and Dan Mora!

IF A TRAIN LEAVES FOR GOTHAM AT 8:00 P.M. TRAVELING AN AVERAGE OF 80 MILES PER HOUR WITH A BOMB STRAPPED TO THE ENGINE AND ABOUT 250 MILES BETWEEN IT AND GOTHAM CENTRAL STATION...

BAD MATH PART 1

STEPHANIE PHILLIPS WRITER
RILEY ROSSMO ARTIST
IVAN PLASCENCIA COLORS
DERON BENNETT LETTERS
RILEY ROSSMO COVER
DERRICK CHEW VARIANT COVER
ACKY BRIGHT 1:25 VARIANT COVER
DIMA IVANOV PEACEMAKER VARIANT COVER
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR

HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY
PAUL DINI AND **BRUCE TIMM**

...HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR ONE **VERY** FASHIONABLE, NEWLY REFORMED HERO TO CRAWL ALONG THE UNDERSIDE OF THE TRAIN AND DEFUSE THE BOMB BEFORE IT REACHES THE STATION, KILLING HUNDREDS...?

!

...OR BEFORE IT SQUISHES MY BEST FRIEND KEVIN BENEATH ITS GIANT STUPID WHEELS?

!

$&*#!

SERIOUSLY, DOES ANYONE KNOW? 'CAUSE I **REALLY** HATE MATH...

...AND TRAINS...

...AND BOMBS STRAPPED TO TRAINS...

TICK

...AND KEEPSAKE...

...I HATE KEEPSAKE **MOST** OF ALL.

AND TO THINK...

KEEPSAKE, YOU ARE SUCH A--

--SUCH A PIECE OF ****!

...I WAS ACTUALLY HAVIN' A GOOD DAY BEFORE THE WHOLE TRAIN, BOMB, AND MATH THING HAPPENED.

KEEPSAKE USED MY **MIND** LIKE IT WAS...LIKE IT WAS SOME KINDA **SANDBOX** FOR HIM TO MESS AROUND IN.

I COULD FEEL MY BODY REACTING WHEN HE GAVE ME ORDERS.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I **TRIED** TO **NOT** DO WHAT HE SAID...

...I-- I HAD **NO** CONTROL...

EVEN CHANGED **MY** NAME... **BLANE**...

...I CAN'T...

FIVE HOURS EARLIER.
GOTHAM.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO...IT'S OVER NOW.

IT'S NOT OVER!

MY HEAD HURTS EVERY ****** DAY...

THE DOCTORS DON'T EVEN KNOW ALL THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF THE **** HE INJECTED INTO US.

I THOUGHT I WAS DONE WITH THIS **** AFTER THE JOKER...

...BUT APPARENTLY I'M JUST THE WEAKEST ******* LINK!

AM I WEARING A SIGN THAT SAYS VICTIM? BECAUSE OTHERWISE I DON'T KNOW WHY...

...WHY ME?

HONESTLY...

...I DON'T KNOW.

YOU...DON'T KNOW?

I COULD GIVE YOU A LINE OUTTA SOME PSYCH BOOK ABOUT NARCISSISTIC PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND VICTIMIZATION IF YOU WANT...

BUT WOULD THAT ACTUALLY HELP?

THE TRUTH IS... I DON'T KNOW WHY **** THINGS HAPPEN AND I DON'T KNOW WHY MOST OF THOSE **** THINGS SEEM TO HAPPEN IN *GOTHAM.*

BUT I *DO* KNOW *YOU.*

GARY, WHEN YOU FIRST JOINED THE GROUP, YOU FELT TRAPPED...LIKE THE ENTIRE CITY WAS AGAINST YOU AND THAT YOU WERE LOSING CONTROL OF YOUR OWN LIFE...

...SO YOU STARTED STEALING LITERALLY ANYTHING YOU COULD GET YOUR HANDS ON.

GARY TOOK MY WALLET ONCE...

THAT WAS ALMOST EIGHT MONTHS AGO. WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU STOLE SOMETHING?

IT'S...BEEN A WHILE, ACTUALLY. AND I'M SORRY ABOUT THE WALLET THING, HANK...

AND JAMIE, YOU JUST ENROLLED IN NIGHT CLASSES TO FINALLY FINISH YOUR DEGREE. I *KNOW* HOW MUCH IT MEANS TO YOU, AND I *KNOW* HOW MUCH TIME YOU'VE DEDICATED TO IT.

ALL OF YOU CAME TO THIS GROUP BECAUSE YOU WERE WILLING TO MAKE A CHANGE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER THROUGH OUR SUCCESSES *AND* FAILURES.

I'M REALLY GOING TO BE A NURSE THIS TIME.

EVERY SINGLE WEEK YOU ******* *TRY* YOUR ******* *BEST.*

I'M NOT SAYING THAT WHAT KEEPSAKE DID TO YOU DOESN'T MATTER... IT ******* SUCKS AND NOTHING I CAN SAY WILL MAKE IT SUCK LESS.

BUT WHAT I'M TRYIN' TO SAY IS THAT NOT EVERYONE HAS SOMEONE... WE'RE KINDA LUCKY... I'M LUCKY...

CLAP CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

"...THAT WE HAVE EACH OTHER."

BYE, HARLEY! SEE YOU MONDAY.

HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND, EVERYONE.

WHERE ARE YOU, KEV?

COME ON...PLEASE PICK UP THIS TIME...

TICK TACK TICK TACK TICK

VOICE MAIL...?

HEY, KEV...IT'S ME. YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP TO GROUP TODAY. WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY. CALL ME WHEN YOU--

UH...

WHOOO WHOOO

WHAT THE--?

WHOOO WHOOO

I DON'T SUPPOSE SOMEONE IS MISSING THEIR OMINOUS MODEL TRAIN...

HARLEY

...THAT I ***REALLY*** HOPE ISN'T SOME KIND OF FORESHADOWING SOME HORRIBLE THING--

KEVIN?

~~I HAVE~~ KEVIN ~~AT~~ the BAILEY TRAIN STATION ~~COME~~ ALONE

KEVIN!

THERE. NEARLY PERFECT...

...NOW WE JUST NEED THE SUPPORTING ACTRESS!

ABANDONED BAILEY'S TRAIN STATION. OUTSIDE OF GOTHAM CITY.

AND IF MY SCHEDULE IS ACCURATE, HARLEY SHOULD BE...

MAN, THIS PLACE IS A DUMP...

....RIGHT ON TIME.

...THERE WAS ***NOWHERE*** ELSE YOU COULD HAVE ***STAGED*** YOUR LATEST KIDNAPPING?

HONESTLY, KEEPSAKE, I'D SAY THIS IS EVEN A STEP ***DOWN*** FROM YOUR KNOCKOFF CHEMICAL PLANT.

THE JOKES ARE CHARMING AS EVER...BUT THIS TIME THE JOKE'S ON ***YOU.***

MEET THE ***KEEPERS!***

THE MAGISTRATE DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY FURTHER USE FOR THEM...SO I GAVE THEM AN ***UPGRADE.***

BECAUSE ALL THE COOL KIDS BUILD THEIR FRIENDS OUT OF SPARE PARTS.

ACTUALLY...THAT ***IS*** PRETTY COOL. YOU REMEMBER THAT ***ROBOT WARS*** SHOW WHERE PEOPLE WOULD BUILD ROBOTS AND MAKE THEM FIGHT IN A CAGE MATCH?

I BET THAT REALLY HELPED GET MORE KIDS INVESTED IN S.T.E.M. PROGRAMS.

NOW, IF IT WAS ME, I WOULD'VE DONATED ALL THESE ROBOTS SOMEWHERE LIKE THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS.

THEIR WEBSITE SAYS THAT ONLY ***13 PERCENT*** OF ENGINEERS AND ***26 PERCENT*** OF COMPUTER SCIENTISTS ARE WOMEN... ****. THAT'S INSANE! I HAD NO IDEA THAT THERE WAS SUCH A--

YOU'RE NOT HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE GENDER GAP IN S.T.E.M. FIELDS...

BUT...***WHY NOT?*** IT'S A PERTINENT TOPIC AND GIVEN THE STATISTICS IT CLEARLY DESERVES MORE SPACE FOR OPEN DISCUSSION ABOUT--

WE'RE ON A BIT OF A *SCHEDULE* HERE, HARLEY...

THAT TRAIN IS GOING TO HEAD TOWARDS GOTHAM CENTRAL STATION...

...IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES.

THERE'S A BOMB STRAPPED TO THE ENGINE THAT WILL EXPLODE AS SOON AS THE TRAIN REACHES THE STATION. THE BLAST WILL BE ENOUGH TO TAKE OUT AT LEAST A BLOCK...MAYBE MORE.

EH, NO IT WON'T. BECAUSE *THAT* TRAIN IS NEVER LEAVING THIS SPOT.

LET'S SAVE OURSELVES THE TROUBLE. YOU GIVE ME KEVIN, I HIT YOU WITH THE BAT...MAYBE I STOP FOR A LITTLE *FROYO* ON THE WAY HOME...

FROGO

OH, I'M SORRY... DID I FORGET TO TELL YOU WHERE *KEVIN* IS?

HE'S TIED TO THE TRAIN TRACKS ABOUT TWO HUNDRED MILES FROM HERE...

HE'S *WHAT* NOW...?

THIS IS THE BEST PART... THE TRAIN CAN *ONLY* GO ONE OF TWO DIRECTIONS... GOTHAM CENTRAL *OR* KEVIN...

EITHER THE CROWDED TRAIN STATION BLOWS UP, *OR* KEVIN GETS RUN OVER AND THE BOMB GOES OFF HARMLESSLY IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. AND THE CHOICE... *DEAR HARLEY...* IS *YOURS.*

WILL YOU KILL YOUR BEST FRIEND TO SAVE A CITY, OR WILL YOU SACRIFICE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TO SAVE THE LIFE OF *ONE* KEVIN?

I *KANT* EVEN...DON'T BE SUCH A *KANT,* KEEPSAKE...

EXCUSE ME...?

IMMANUEL KANT... THE GERMAN PHILOSOPHER...

THE *TROLLEY PROBLEM* THAT YOU ARE *FORCING* ME TO SOLVE USUALLY ASKS PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS TO EXAMINE KANTIAN ETHICS VERSUS CONSEQUENTIALIST REASONING.

BUT IN ACTUALITY THIS *STUPID* THOUGHT EXPERIMENT REALLY DISCOURAGES STUDENTS FROM EXAMINING PRAGMATIC, STRUCTURAL FACTORS THAT DETERMINE INDIVIDUAL CHOICE.

FOR THAT REASON...

THWAK

...THE ONLY **CHOICE** I'LL BE MAKING IS WHETHER TO BEAT YOU TO A PULP WITH MY TRUSTY BAT, OR THROW YA UNDER THE TRAIN.

UNGH!

KILL HER!

BRACKA

BRACKA

BRACKA

BRACKA

LISTEN, ROBOCOPS, I'M A BIG FAN OF ROBOTS AND LITERALLY **ANY** CINEMATIC FRANCHISE FEATURING YOU ALL STAGIN' A REVOLUTION **AGAINST** HUMANITY... I'M ON **YOUR** SIDE...

...BUT IN THE INFAMOUS WORDS OF ACTOR, FORMER GOVERNOR, AND CURRENT DONKEY OWNER, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER...

BAM

BANG

BLA BLAM

...HASTA LA VISTA, BABY!

KRAAK

RATATAT

YOU KNOW, A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK ***TERMINATOR 2: JUDGMENT DAY*** IS THE BEST FILM IN THE ***TERMINATOR*** FRANCHISE...

MAYBE IT'S JUST A NOSTALGIA THING... BUT WHEN I SAW THE FIRST MOVIE, I THOUGHT IT WAS THE ***COOLEST*** THING I'D EVER SEEN--

RRRRMMMBLE

I DON'T SUPPOSE ANY OF YOU ARE BIG ***LINDA HAMILTON*** FANS?

KRASSH

I GUESS THAT'S A NO!

I DON'T THINK IT GETS ANY BETTER THAN HAMILTON AS SARAH CONNOR...

WATCHING HER CHARACTER EVOLUTION AS SHE TURNS INTO ONE OF THE MOST BAD*** FEMALE ACTION HEROES...

WHAT AN ERA FOR FEMALE HEROINES...SARAH CONNOR, SIGOURNEY WEAVER'S RIPLEY...

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'VE ALWAYS LIKED WOMEN WITH BIG...

...GUNS!

ZKRP

ANY CHANCE YOU'RE LIKE ARNIE FROM T2...

...AND YOU'RE HERE TO PROTECT ME FROM THE EVIL ROBOTS FROM THE FUTURE...

KRAAAK

...WHO ARE TRYIN' TO KILL ME TO PREVENT ME FROM GIVIN' BIRTH...

...TO A SON WHO WILL ONE DAY LEAD THE REVOLUTION?

NOT *THAT* LUCKY, HUH?

WOULDA BEEN COOL THOUGH...

ZZZZp

GULP.

HOW ABOUT THIS ONE...WHAT'S ONE CLOWN PLUS A GIANT ROBOT TIMES "i"?

A **REAL** BAD WAY TO SPEND YOUR EVENING.

WAIT...NO...THAT'S NOT RIGHT. "i" MULTIPLIED BY "i" IS **REAL**...SO MY JOKE WOULD HAVE TO BE A CLOWN PLUS A ROBOT TIMES "i" **SQUARED**...?

I'D BE WAY FUNNIER IF I'D PAID ATTENTION IN MATH CLASS.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT, HARLEY...

URRRGH!

AND NOW ALL THIS MATH IS MAKIN' ME FEEL **NEGATIVE**...AND THAT'S COMIN' FROM SOMEONE CHAINED TO THE CONTROLS OF A SPEEDIN' TRAIN WITH A BOMB SOMEWHERE BELOW ME.

...MAKE YOUR DECISION...

WILL YOU KILL KEVIN...OR THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM...?

WHATEVER WILL THE **HERO** DO? YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS... FOUR...THR--

...KEEPSAKE...

SHUT UP!

IF HARLEY QUINN GOES TO THAT LITTLE ITALIAN BAKERY IN THE HEART OF OLD GOTHAM AND BUYS FOUR CANNOLI WITH CHOCOLATE CHIPS ON THE ENDS...

I'M SO SORRY, KEVIN...

...AND KEEPSAKE GETS HIS DISGUSTING, GRUBBY, GREEDY FINGERS ON THE CANNOLI AND TAKES HALF OF THE DELICIOUS ITALIAN BAKERY CANNOLI THAT HARLEY DROVE ALL THE WAY TO OLD GOTHAM TO GET...

...WHAT DOES KEEPSAKE HAVE?

THAT'S RIGHT... A **BLACK EYE.**

AND PROBABLY **MANY** SEVERED FINGERS.

HELLO?

SORRY, JUST FORGOT MY PHONE AND WANTED TO GRAB IT BEFORE--

BUT IF YOU ALSO HAVE TROUBLE WITH WORD PROBLEMS, LET ME CLARIFY THINGS A BIT...

I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.

WHAT?

...KEEPSAKE IS GONNA REALLY REGRET TAKING MY CANNOLI...OR, YOU KNOW...MY BEST FRIEND KEVIN.

TO BE CONTINUED

THE ORIGIN OF THE WARRIOR FOR PEACE, REVEALED!

DC BLACK LABEL

AGES 17+

JANUARY

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PEACEMAKER

DISTURBING THE PEACE

AN ALL-NEW ONE-SHOT

WRITTEN BY THE CO-CREATOR OF *THE BOYS* AND *PREACHER*

GARTH ENNIS

ART BY

GARRY BROWN

MAIN COVER BY JUAN FERREYRA

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DC PEACEMAKER

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

MONKEY PRINCE

DON'T MISS *MONKEY PRINCE* #1 ON SALE IN FEBRUARY!

Following his debut in 2021's *DC Festival of Heroes: The Asian Superhero Celebration*, the Monkey Prince returns in his own series, debuting on Lunar New Year! Writer Gene Luen Yang and artist Bernard Chang talk the shape-shifting character's origins, and his ties to Chinese mythology.

What is the personal importance of introducing this character?

Gene Luen Yang: It's a thrill. There's a lot of overlap between the Monkey King and the American superhero genre. They both are heroes, they're battling for the fate of the world, they're both dressed up in fancy, colorful costumes, and they both have these fantastical, superhuman powers. It felt good to bridge that gap between those two loves—American superheroes and the legend of the Monkey King.

Bernard Chang: My family immigrated to the U.S. when I was six. Immediately, I took a liking to American comic books like *Batman* and *Superman*. They helped me learn English, but also taught me a lot about values. So, when my dad saw I was consuming a lot of superhero stuff, he wanted to introduce me to an original Chinese superhero, and got his hands on a Monkey King book. He would read to me a few pages each night, and I would go to sleep dreaming about these amazing and fantastical adventures.

How did the Monkey Prince come to life for you?

Yang: We wanted to firmly ground our character in the DC Universe. We wanted it to feel like a story that couldn't be told anywhere else. The main character isn't the Monkey King himself, but actually his son—that's why he's called the Monkey Prince. Second, we wanted to tie him into DC heroes and DC conventions. We wanted a relationship between the character and the heroes and villains that already exist in the DC Universe, like you saw previously with Monkey Prince and Shazam in our first short story, and more recently Monkey King and Darkseid in *Monkey Prince* #0.

Chang: Monkey Prince is all about attitude and character. My initial reaction to the original Monkey King character was that he's a rebel, a mischievous figure who defied the gods and wanted to do things his way. So bringing that element into the design was a key factor.

Let's talk about the sneakers. Bernard, how did you land on giving the Monkey Prince that very distinctive touch?

Chang: The Monkey Prince is a teenager named Marcus going to high school, so you know whatever he's wearing has to have some hotness to it.

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